



## INSTITUTION BUILDING

### Kosovo - A Successful Donors' Conference

**1**.2 billion euro were pledged to support the development of Kosovo at an International Donors' Conference, held in Brussels on July 11. The conference aimed to attract funding for priority economic development needs in Kosovo.

The key document underpinning the conference was a comprehensive Medium Term Expenditure Framework 2008-2011 (MTEF) that was produced by the Budget and Macroeconomic Departments in the Ministry of Finance and Economy. The MTEF was produced with the aid of a macroeconomic model, incorporating a range of policy assumptions leading to identification of a 'financing gap' for the three-year period covered by the MTEF. The Budget and Macroeconomics Departments, which are staffed by local experts, are the creation of major USAID capacity building efforts. Advisers have worked in the Ministry of Finance and Economy since its establishment to build local capacity to take responsibility for all policy-related and analytical work that lead to the production of the MTEF.

The funding pledged will cover the projected financing gap, including budget and debt support, institution building and technical assistance. Participants from the US and EU, as well as representatives from IMF, World Bank and a number of other countries, attended the conference.

## BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

### Donor Assistance Nurtures Economic Independence

**A** small textile factory employing six women from Llaplleselle/Laplje Selo (Pristina municipality) is a small but significant step toward economic independence for women in this small Serb community.

Established by Avenija Women Business Association, the factory produces textile products for hotels and home use (tablecloths, towels, napkins, and sheets), as well as clothes, woven products (rugs) and ornamental dress embroidery. Dr. Michael Farbman, USAID/Kosovo Director, visited the factory on July 15th and learned about their work and achievements.

Various fashion designers have expressed an interest in the traditional Kosovo design and styles, and have initiated business discussions with the Association. Previous support to the Association includes a donation of sewing equipment from Finnish Kosovo Forces (KFOR) and refurbishment of facilities from USAID's Kosovo Cluster and Business Support project.



Working on a new design for rugs at the Avenija Women Business Association

Today, the small textile factory is progressing rapidly toward self-sustainability. Following the visit to Avenija, Dr. Farbman visited the DTS Kondi Company in Gračanica/Gračanica where he learned about the production of a candy called "Turkish delight." The owner of DTS Kondi shared insights into the production process and discussed problems that the company faces in its daily operations.

Both Avenija and DTS Kondi are partners of USAID's Kosovo Cluster and Business Support Project, a four-year activity that works to stimulate growth in key economic sectors.

## CONFLICT MITIGATION

### Playing for Peace

**G**ames of football and volleyball, as well as workshops on communication, were part of six youth camps organized in Gjilan/Gnjilane, Kamenice/a and Novo Berd/Novo Brdo municipalities.

This joint venture of Nike and USAID's Municipal Integration and Support Initiative (MISI) brought fun to 450 Kosovo youth during these hot summer days.

The camps, organized by Action for Non-violence and Peace Building, a local NGO based in Gjilan/Gnjilane, encouraged inter-ethnic dialogue through games and classes. The youth received coaching in their specific sports (football, volleyball) and participated in a series of interactive workshops on topics such as the role of youth in society, communication skills, advocacy, and peace building.

Under the Let's Play slogan, Nike distributed \$93,000 worth of jerseys, socks, hats, jackets, balls and sport bags to the participants of the camps. MISI is implemented in cooperation with Mercy Corps.

### Road Improves Conditions in Lismir/Dobri Dub

A recently rehabilitated road is providing easier access to Obiliq/c and Fushe Kosove/Kosovo Polje for the residents of Lismir/Dobri Dub. The road, which was dedicated on July 9, is the result of successful cooperation among the community, municipal authorities and USAID's Municipal Integration and Support Initiative (MISI).

"This road project, I believe, can serve as a model of cooperation between government and its citizens. This is the type of commitment that the United States, the European Union, and others in the international community are looking for. It represents the kind of partnership that we need, in order to make our contributions meaningful," said Dr. Michael Farbman, USAID/Kosovo Director, as he cut an inaugural ribbon. Daniel Rosenblum, Coordinator of U.S. Assistance to Europe & Eurasia, Dr. S. Ken Yamashita, Senior Deputy Assistant Administrator, USAID Europe & Eurasia Bureau, and Burim Berisha, Mayor of Fushe Kosove/Kosovo Polje, joined in the event.

Lismir/ Dobridub is a village of 939 residents, mostly Kosovo Albanians. Accessing markets, health facilities, and other services located in the towns of Obiliq/c and Fushe Kosove/Kosovo Polje emerged as a priority for residents during meetings with Mercy Corps and municipal authorities. The 1,632 meter-long rehabilitation cost 102,693 euro. USAID contributed 22,000 euros and the community contributed 3,000 euro.

The road rehabilitation project is one of six projects in Fushe Kosove/Kosovo Polje municipality implemented through MISI, a partnership with Mercy Corps.

### Culture Brings Kosovo Serb Communities Together

Seventeen activities, ranging from documentary films and fashion shows to trumpet and folklore concerts, attracted over 3,000 people during Week of Culture II in six Kosovo Serb communities. Week of Culture II, held in Llapllaselle/Laplje Selo, Graçanice/Gracanica, Dobrotin, Shillove/Silovo, Hoce e Madhe/Velika Hoca and Gorazhdec/Gorazdevac from June 30 to July 4, was a follow-up to the successful first event held in early June.

This second cultural week targeted smaller, more isolated communities with the aim of engaging youth and increasing community vibrancy. A series of trumpet concerts attracted especially large crowds, as the group playing was one of the winners of the much-acclaimed Serbian Guca festival. In Shillove/Silovo, over 400 people watched the group play, and in Gorazdevac the trumpet band played to a packed cultural house.



Cultural week engaged youth with disabilities

The community events also included screenings of documentary films produced by Link Productions, fashion shows and food tasting organized by Avenija, a day of games in the Gracanica swimming pool for young participants from Gracanica and the surrounding area, and theatre performances. One visitor commented, "Honestly, the fashion show left the best impression on me. The positive atmosphere tells us how happy people were to attend this event."

Week of Culture II was organized by six NGOs: Avenija, Communication for Social Development (CSD), Center for Peace and Tolerance (CPT), Ghetto Theater, Link Productions, and the Organization for People with Disabilities (OON). The initiative is a part of USAID's Support to Peace and Stability project, implemented by the Academy for Educational Development.

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